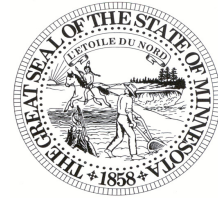




STATE OF MINNESOTA
Office of Energy Security



Issued: May 19, 2010

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF DRAFT SITE PERMIT

**In the Matter of the Application of AWA Goodhue, LLC, for
a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) Site Permit
for the 78 MW Goodhue Wind Project in Goodhue County
PUC Docket No. IP-6701/WS-08-1233**

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Minnesota Public Utilities Commission (Commission) in an Order dated May 6, 2010, issued a Draft Site Permit for public review and comment for the Goodhue Wind Project. The Commission's Order also expanded the scope of the public hearing on the Certificate of Need proceeding in Docket No. IP-6701/CN-09-1186 to include siting matters related to the Draft Site Permit. See **Project Contacts and Information** for project related documents.

Project Description

AWA Goodhue, LLC, proposes a Large Wind Energy Conversion System (LWECS) of 78 MW in Goodhue County. The proposed project will include up to 52 General Electric (GE) XLE 1.5 MW wind turbine generators, with a hub height 262.5 feet (80 meters) and a rotor diameter of 271 feet (82.5 meters). In addition to the wind turbines, the Project will include access roads, two meteorological towers, an electrical collection system, and junction boxes delivering power to two proposed project substations. The two substations will increase the voltage from the 34.5 kV feeder lines to 69 kV and be carried by two 69 kV transmission lines, one existing and the other proposed to the electrical grid.

Proposed Site Location

The Project area (shown in the accompanying map) consists of approximately 32,000 acres located in southern Goodhue County in the townships of Belle Creek, Goodhue, Vasa, Minneola and Zumbrota.

Eminent Domain for Goodhue Wind Project

The Applicant **does not** have the power of eminent domain to acquire the land or wind rights for the Project. Wind and land rights necessary to build the facility must be in the form of voluntary easements or lease agreements between individual landowners and the Applicant.

Authority and Statement of Issues to Be Decided

To proceed with this project, the Applicant must obtain both a certificate of need (CN) and a site permit from the Commission. The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statute 216B.243, Subd. 2, to issue a CN for a large energy facility if the applicant can demonstrate there is a need for the

project. The CN process includes development of an environmental report (ER), which describes the human and environmental impacts of the Project, alternatives to the Project, and methods to mitigate anticipated impacts. The ER must be prepared before the Commission can make a decision on the CN for the Project.

After completion of the ER, the Commission will hold a public hearing on the CN and Site Permit applications, presided over by an Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) from the Office of Administrative Hearings. This hearing is the only time at which the “no-build” alternative and the size, type, and timing of the Project can be considered. These items will not be addressed in the Site Permit process. Notice of the public hearing will be published in local newspapers and mailed to persons who register on the Office of Energy Security, Energy Facility Permitting (EFP) Project Mailing List.

The Commission is authorized by Minnesota Statutes 216E.02, Subd. 2 and 216F.04, Subd. a, to designate sites and issue site permits for LWECS. When the Commission designates a site, it issues a permit for the construction of the project specifying the design, location, preparation, and operation of the facility, along with any other appropriate conditions it deems necessary. The Commission is required by Minnesota Statutes 216B.243, Subd. 4, and 216F.05, Subd. 3 to hold public meetings and hearings on such applications.

Public Comment Period

Public comment on the Draft Site Permit will be accepted through the end of the public hearing comment period, which will be announced in the separate Notice of Public Hearing and will run at least through the end of June 2010. This hearing also fulfills the public information meeting requirements of Minnesota Rules 7854.0900.

Comments on the Draft Site Permit may be mailed, emailed, or faxed to Larry Hartman (see contact information below). All comments received will be submitted to the ALJ for inclusion in the record of this proceeding. If you would like to offer comments directly to the ALJ, this can be done at the hearing or when the hearing notice becomes available.

Contested Case Hearing Request

Any person may request a more formal contested case hearing on the site permit proceeding for this project pursuant to Minnesota Rules part 7854.0900. All contested case hearing requests must be filed in writing with EFP or the ALJ by the close of the public hearing comment period. Persons requesting the contested case hearing must list the issues to be addressed in the hearing and the reason why a contested case hearing is required to resolve those issues. The Commission shall order a contested case hearing if it finds that a material issue of fact has been raised and that the contested case hearing will aid it in making a final decision on whether to authorize construction of the project.

The Commission heard a request for a contested case in this docket and the CN docket (09-1186) on April 15, 2010. In its May 6, 2010 Order, the Commission denied the request for a contested case and instead ordered the scope of the public hearing in the certificate of need docket be expanded to include comments on the Draft Site Permit.

The record that is developed through the public participation and hearing process will be presented to the Commission for a final decision.

Project Contacts and Information

The Draft Site Permit, Site Permit application and other documents relevant to the proposed Project are available on the Commission's website:

<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25631>, and on the Department of Commerce's eDocket website: <https://www.edockets.state.mn.us/EFiling/search.jsp> (enter the docket number 08-1233 for the Site Permit documents (See document id # [20105-50170-02](#) for the draft site permit) or 09-1186 for the CN documents).

Questions about the Project and the Public Utilities Commission's permitting process may be directed to:

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Persons interested in adding their names to the EFP Project Mailing List for this project should contact the state permit manager, public advisor, or register online at:
<http://energyfacilities.puc.state.mn.us/Docket.html?Id=25631>

Questions about the Goodhue Wind Project and its applications can also be directed to the applicant by contacting Ben Kerl, Senior Wind Developer, Tel (612) 746-6606,
bkerl@nationalwind.com.

Copies of the applications are also available for review at the public library in Zumbrota, the Auditor's Office in Goodhue County, and the city offices in Goodhue and Zumbrota and with the clerks of Belle Creek, Goodhue, Minneola, Vasa and Zumbrota townships.

This document can be made available in alternative formats (i.e., large print or audio tape) by calling 651- 201-2202 (Voice) or 1-800-627-3529 (TTY relay service).

Attachment 1

